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Customer No. 26874  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Attorney Docket: END5131.0517373



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Swayze et al. : Paper No:  
  
Serial No. 10/673,662 : Group Art Unit: 3721  
  
Filed: September 29, 2003 : Examiner: Brian Nash  
  
For: **SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING MULTISTROKE FIRING  
INCORPORATING A TRACTION-BIASED RACHETING MECHANISM**

**AMENDMENT & RESPONSE**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action, dated September 7, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.**

**Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.**